Harford County Board of Appeals

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Bel Air, Maryland 21014 ARFORD

Case No	5410
Date Filed	3-2-04
Hearing Date	
Receipt	
Fee	45000

Shaded Areas for Office Use Only

	1 1		est and Section(s) of Variance	Code		
Administrative Decision/Interpretation Special Exception Use Variance Change/Extension of Non-Conforming Use	ELECTION DISTRICT 3 LOCATION 2712 Johnson Mill Road, Forest Hill, Md. 21050 BY Lester and Elizabeth Chambers Leung					
Minor Area Variance Area Variance Variance from Requirements of the Code Zoning Map/Drafting Correction	Appealed becausea variance pursuant to Section 267-26D(7) of the Harford County Code to allowarm for 2 or more horses to be less than 100 feet from a residential lot line (50 foot proposed) in a RI District requires approval by the Board.					
plicant/Owner (please print or type) Lester Leung & Elizabeth	ChambersLeur	¹ Phone Ni	umbe(<u>410)877</u> -	7772		
ress 2712 Johnson Mill RD Street Number Street	Forest Hill	MD City	21050 State	Zip Code		
Street Number Street n/a Applicant	Forest Hill		State	Zip Code		
Street Number Street n/a Applicant	Forest Hill	City	State	Zip Code		
Street Number Note to the street of the str	Forest Hill	City Phone Nu	State umber State			
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Street Number Street n/a Applicant ress Street Number Street	Forest Hill	City Phone Nu City Phone Nu City	State umber State	Zip Code Zip Code		

Land Description									
Address and Location of Pro	perty	2712 Jo	hnson M	ill Road	, Forest	Hill, MD	21050		

ubdivision Preserves at Colvard Manor						Lot Number			
Acreage/Lot Size16.	24 ac	Election	District	3	·····	Zoning	RR		
Tax Map No. <u>0033</u>	Grid N	o. <u>0003</u>	E Parce	0438	Water/Sew	er: Private <u>x</u>	Public		
List ALL structures on prope	rty and curre	ent use:	home/dw	elling					
Estimated time required to p	resent case	± 45	minutes						
If this Appeal is in reference									
Would approval of this petiti				-					
ls this property located withi			-						
f so, what is the Critical Area	ı Land Use d	lesignations:_			Waller of the second se				
s this request the result of a	zoning enfo	rcement inves	stigation? Ye	es No _	<u>x</u>				
s this request within one (1)	mile of any i	incorporated t	town limits?	Yes N	0 <u>x</u>				
Request	_								
		see att	tached						
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ustification	please	see att	tached						

If additional space is needed, attach sheet to application. In answering the above questions, please refer to the Requirements that pertain to the type of approval request. (Special Exception, Variance, Critical Area or Natural Resource District (NRD) Variance, etc.)

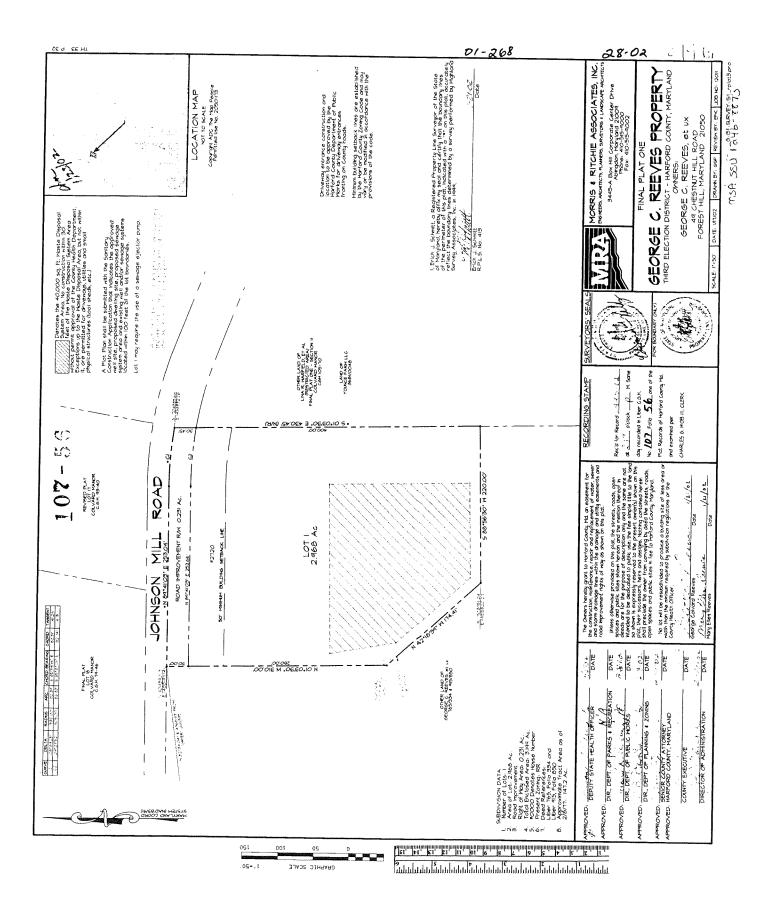
Request

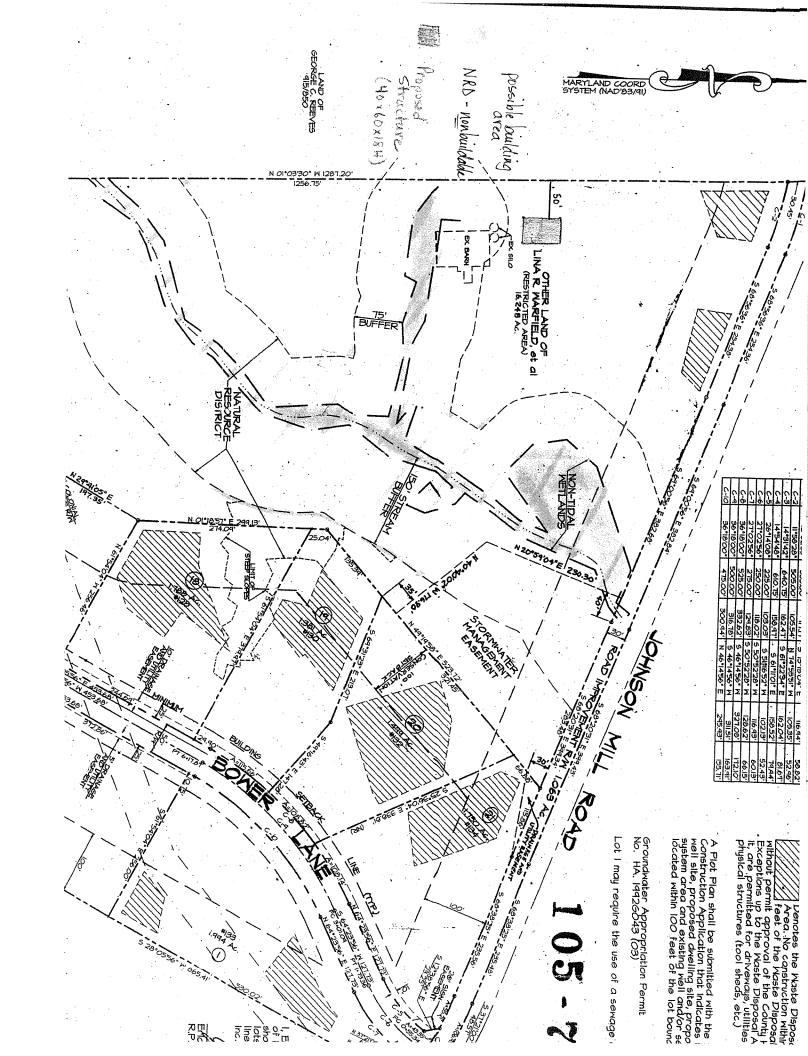
We are requesting a 50' setback variance from our property line for the placement of a garage/stable structure on our property, 2712 Johnson Mill Road, Forest Hill, MD. We have enclosed all necessary supporting documentation- permission granted by declarant of covenants, adjacent property owners' statements that they do not object to the 50' variance, plots and sketches of proposed structure. The proposed structure will be garage on one side (side facing closest property line) and stable on other side (side facing into property). Please see sketch for further clarification.

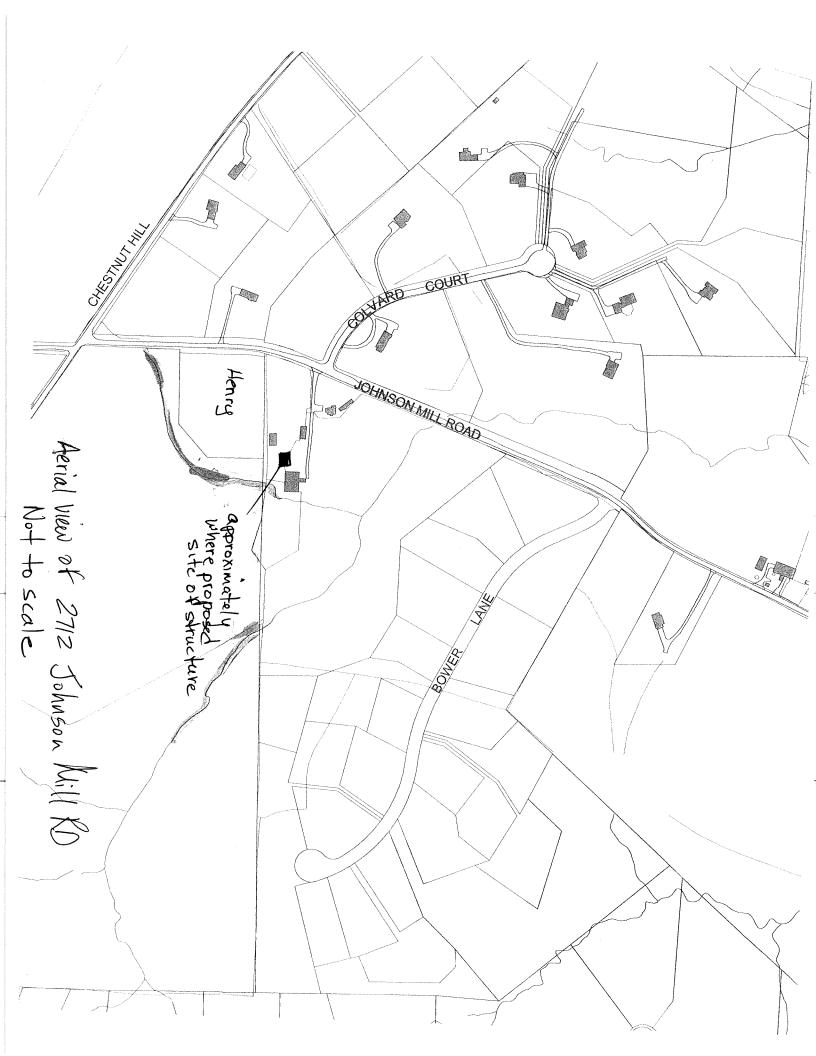
Justification

The request for the 50' variance is based on a number of topographical conditions unique to our property. Our property, 16.24 acres, is characterized by mostly NRD (Natural Resource Districts) due to Cabbage Run Stream. Additionally, the existing placement of our dwelling, well and swells created by the slope of our property limit the site of our proposed structure to a small area. Please see the attached plots that show the NRD, dwelling site, well, and swells existent on our property. The plots also show the former site of a barn structure on the property- our proposed site seeks to improve the former placement by taking into account buffer zones and erosion issues. Working with the guidance of the Maryland Cooperative (Agricultural) Extension office and Maryland Department of Natural Resources, we have attempted to propose a site that is least intrusive to the environment as well as one which will not be substantially detrimental to adjacent properties.

Thank you for reviewing our request.







JAMES M. HARKINS

HARFORD COUNTY EXECUTIVE





J. STEVEN KAII-ZIEGLER DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & ZONING

HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Department of Planning and Zoning

April 13, 2004

STAFF REPORT



BOARD OF APPEALS CASE NO. 5410

APPLICANT/OWNER:

Lester Leung and Elizabeth Chambers Leung

2712 Johnson Mill Road, Forest Hill, Maryland 21050

REPRESENTATIVE:

Applicants

LOCATION:

2712 Johnson Mill Road/Preserves at Colvard Manor

Tax Map: 33 / Grid: 3E / Parcel: 0438 / Lot: Remaining Lands

Election District: 3

ACREAGE:

16.24 acres

ZONING:

RR/Rural Residential

DATE FILED:

March 2, 2004

HEARING DATE:

April 28, 2004

APPLICANTS' REQUEST and JUSTIFICATION:

See Attachment 1.

CODE REQUIREMENTS:

The Applicants are requesting a variance pursuant to Section 267-26D(7) of the Harford County Code to allow a barn for two or more horses to be less than 100-feet from a residential lot line (50-foot proposed) in an RR/Rural Residential District.

~ Preserving our values, protecting our future '-

MY DIRECT PHONE NUMBER IS (410) 638-3103

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Section 267-26D(7) of the Harford County Code reads:

Private horse stables, provided that any stables, corrals, feeding or bedding areas for two (2) or more horses shall be located at least fifty (50) feet from any public road or nonresidential lot line and one hundred (100) feet from any residential lot line. Pastures, when fenced, may extend to the lot line.

LAND USE and ZONING ANALYSIS:

Land Use – Master Plan:

The subject property is located north of Forest Hill in the Colvard Manor subdivision. The development is located on the north and south sides of Johnson Mill Road, east of Chestnut Hill Road. The Applicants' lot is situated on the south side of Johnson Mill Road. A location map and a copy of the Applicants' site plan are enclosed with the report (Attachments 2 and 3).

The subject property is located outside of the Development Envelope. The primary land use designations in the area are Rural Residential and Agricultural/AG Residential. The Natural Features Map reflects Deer Creek Scenic River District, parks and stream buffer systems. The subject property is designated as Rural Residential, which is defined by the 1996 Master Plan as:

Rural Residential – Areas of focused rural development within the agricultural area, which allow low intensity residential opportunities while maintaining the character of the surrounding countryside. Water and sewer services are not planned for these areas. Residential density is limited to 1.0 dwelling unit per 2 acres.

Enclosed with the report are copies of portions of the 1996 Land Use Map and the Natural Features Map (Attachments 4 and 5).

Land Use – Existing:

The existing land uses in this area of the County conform to the overall intent of the 1996 Master Plan. The area includes a mix of Agricultural and Residential uses. The overall topography of the area ranges from rolling to steep, especially near the stream valleys (Attachment 6). Enclosed with the report is a copy of the aerial photograph (Attachment 7).

The subject property is part of the Colvard Manor subdivision, which is a single-family residential development improved with large, custom-built homes. This property is the remaining lands of the original farm and consists of approximately 16.24 acres. The improvements include a large brick and frame dwelling with attached two-car garage, and a blacktopped driveway with parking and turning area to the right side of the dwelling. The area around the dwelling is nicely landscaped with large, mature trees within the front yard. The well is in the front of the house and the septic system is in the rear. The balance of the property is an open pasture field with a stream that traverses the center of the land. The topography of the site ranges from rolling to steep. The existing barn shown on the site plan has been removed.

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Enclosed with the report are site photographs along with an enlargement of the aerial photograph (Attachments 8 and 9).

Zoning:

The zoning classifications conform to the intent of the 1996 Master Plan as well as the existing land uses. The predominant zoning classifications include AG/Agricultural and RR/Rural Residential. The subject property is zoned RR/Rural Residential as shown on the enclosed copy of the zoning map (Attachment 10).

SUMMARY:

The Applicants are requesting a variance pursuant to Section 267-26D(7) of the Harford County Code to allow a barn for two or more horses to be less than 100-feet from a residential lot line (50-foot proposed) in an RR/Rural Residential District.

Variances of this nature may be approved by the Board of Appeals pursuant to Section 267-11 of the Harford County Code, provided it finds by reason of the uniqueness of the property or topographical conditions that literal enforcement of the Code would result in practical difficulty and undue hardship. Further, the Applicants must show that the request will not be substantially detrimental to adjacent properties or will not materially impair the purpose of the Code or the public interest.

The Department finds that the subject property is unique. A substantial portion of the property is designated as Natural Resource District due to the existing stream and wetlands. The topography of the site along with the environmental features and existing improvements severely limit the buildable area of the lot.

The Applicants have provided statements from adjacent property owners indicating that they do not object to the placement of the proposed building within 50-feet of the property line (Attachments 11 and 12). The Applicants have also submitted a statement indicating that the proposal meets the covenants and restrictions for the development (Attachment 13).

RECOMMENDATION and or SUGGESTED CONDITIONS:

The Department of Planning and Zoning recommends that the variance be approved subject to the Applicants obtaining all necessary permits and inspections for the building.

Dennis J. Sigler, Coordinator

Zoning & Board of Appeals Review

Anthony S. McClune, AICP

Deputy Director, Planning and Zoning

DJS/ASM/ka